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Superior intellect is sometimes blighted by an evil genius which preys upon the common mind. The average mind, absorbed and circumscribed by the drudgery of toil, is not on its guard against the song of the siren. Truth is always uppermost in the human mind. The same evil genius of intellect which is responsible for a violation of the penal code, is responsible for the wrongs of government. The ignorant and vicious, the tramp and the pauper, are wheedled by the evil genius of superior intellect and intelligence, or are bribed by the man of money to desecrate the temple of truth and liberty by casting a dishonest ballot for a dishonest man, who, having thus acquired official patronage and political power, devotes himself to despoiling the temple and poisoning the springs of truth and justice. The fruits of this great crime are borne in the frenzy of the mob, the violence of the strike, and, finally, in the awful judgment of an outraged people, whose mighty voice and tread shake down the thrones of the world and revolutionize forms of government.

The great heart of mankind beats in sympathy with itself and with the vices and sorrows that mingle in its blood. The higher judgment and better impulses of all men dictate obedience to those great principles of justice which, flashing from the honest intellect, never fail to move humanity in the right direction. To this better sympathy and higher judgment the leaders of men must appeal.

The current of human thought runs in the channel of truth. It may at times be diverted from its natural course by the evil genius of intellect which is manifest in the corrupt use of power and money, and in the sophistry of overleaping ambition. The beasts of the field are under the dominion of man; the dumbest beast of burden may be made to appreciate his kindness or to resent his anger. There runs the parallel between the weaker and the stronger mind. As it is provided by the law of the state, that every man should use his own property so as not to injure his neighbor, so is it declared by the higher law that the man of superior intellect and wider knowledge should not use his superior gifts and greater acquisitions to the detriment or disadvantage of his fellow-men. These self-evident truths and vital principles are little heeded by the over-ambitious men engaged in the scramble for place, and power, and spoils.

Every order of animate creation has its kings. We are pleased to speak of the kings of men. Some men have greater intellectual endowments and greater knowledge than the mass of mankind. While, now and then, an unlettered man will accumulate a large estate, the rule is that the men of knowledge and superior mind amass the great fortunes of the world. It remains for those of superior intellect and intelligence to discover the fountains of truth, and to turn their vitalizing streams out into the barren places, and to make beautiful flowers bloom in the melancholy wastes.

LINUS S. WEBB.

IV.

INEBRIETY AS A DISEASE.

A LARGE number of medico-legal questions arise in connection with dipsomania. All true dipsomaniacs are irresponsible for acts committed immediately before, during and after their attacks. This is on account of their intellectual condition before the crisis, on account of the impulsive character of their actions, and on account of the toxic delirium with which it is often followed. In the eyes even of those who regard drunkenness as an aggravation of crime, the dipsomaniac should be regarded as irresponsible because he is not master of his desire to drink. As for the wrong or even criminal acts which they commit in their lucid inter-

vals, we should never forget that they are possessed of an undeniably morbid disposition, that they have a defective intellectual organization, and are in reality beings who have degenerated.

Introduction in excess continually from time to time of alcoholic drinks leads to an accumulation in the system of the specific poison. The tissues of the body and the nervous system, which includes the brain, become at length so impregnated, so charged with the poison, as to produce in the unhappy victim of this condition a craving for the accustomed stimulant, which becomes absolutely irresistible. Such people as these are "dipsomaniacs," and for these victims there can be no doubt there is but one remedy—absolute restraint from all access to alcoholic liquors for a sufficient length of time to cure the disease of inebriety, which is curable like other diseases. Law and medicine should unite in accepting the following as a definition of dipsomania : Dipsomania consists of an irresistible craving for alcoholic stimulants, occurring very frequently, periodically, paroxysmally, with a constant liability to periodical exacerbations, when the craving becomes altogether irresistible.

The dipsomaniac is driven into a debauch by an irresistible impulse; the drunkard merely chooses to seek the intoxicating effect of alcohol. There are many dipsomaniacs who, in the intervals between their paroxysms, will not take stimulants even when placed before them; but a drunkard, on the other hand, will take a stimulant whenever he can get it. Dipsomania, also, rarely occurs except in persons of a certain hereditary conformation. When the disease of dipsomania first appears—and it may be caused by blows on the head, sunstroke, fever, hemorrhage, mental shock, or by the commotion in the system which attends the establishment of puberty or the arrival of the climacteric period—the paroxysms of drinking occur generally but once or twice in a year, and grow in frequency until they become separated by an interval of a few days only.

Science demonstrates conclusively that Society and the Law should cease to regard the inebriate as a moral delinquent and look upon him as a sick man, demanding proper medical treatment to remove the diseased conditions of his organism. There is peril to society in the increase of the neuropathic diathesis, resulting from intemperance, that surely breeds its like and perpetuates hereditary descent of the organically defective and vicious, and it is wise to remember that there is a small advantage and an infinity of evil to be gained by the constant daily use of alcohol as a beverage. Alcohol is very valuable when used skillfully, scientifically and legitimately; but in its abuse it is a destructive and terrible agent, productive of a large amount of physical and mental disease and entailing diseased appetites and enfeebled constitutions upon offspring.

EDWARD C. MANN.